

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TUNIS 01713 261630Z

73

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 /067 W

----- 113538

R 261550Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8563

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TUNIS 1713

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TS LY

SUBJECT: QADHAFI VISITS BOURGUIBA

REF: TUNIS 1641, 1595

1. SUMMARY: QADHAFI SPENT JUST OVER TWENTY-FOUR HOURS WITH BOURGUIBA IN CONNECTION WITH PROPHET'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION, KAIROUAN. PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND PRESS COVERAGE CONTAIN NO HINT OF FRICTION, AND JERBA UNION SCHEME WAS NOT MENTIONED PUBLICLY. END SUMMARY.

2. QADHAFI ARRIVED VIA MONASTIR AIRPORT MORNING MARCH 24, FLEW TO KAIROUAN WITH BOURGUIBA THAT DAY FOR PROPHET'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS COMMENCING SUNSET, HELD WORKING SESSION THE NEXT MORNING AND DEPARTED FOR TRIPOLI AFTERNOON MARCH 25. HE MADE NO PUBLIC SPEECH.

3. QADHAFI'S DEPARTURE STATEMENT WAS BRIEF, FRIENDLY, INNOUCUOUS. HE SAID THE VISIT HAD GIVEN HIM THE OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN FIRST HAND INFORMATION ABOUT THE BROTHERLY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TUNIS 01713 261630Z

TUNISIAN PEOPLE OF WHOM HE HAS EXCELLENT IMPRESSIONS:

THAW HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH BOURGUIBA HAD HIGHLIGHTED THE NECESSITY OF DEVELOPING LIBYAN/TUNISIAN RELATIONS BOURGUIBA WHOM HE CONSIDERS HIS FATHER, AND FOR WHOM HE WISHES GOOD HEALTH.

4. A ONE-HOUR "WORKING SESSION" TOOK PLACE MAJCH 25 IN KAIROUAN. IT IS DESCRIBED IN PRESS ONLY AS HAVING DEALT WITH BILATERAL RELATIONS. NOTEWORTHY THAT WHILE QADHAFI WAS ACCOMPANIED ONLY BY A MAJOR MGASSBI (DESCRIBED AS MEMBER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND COUNCIL), VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ABOU ZAID DOURDA, AKD THE LIBYAN AMBASSADOR TO TUNIS, BOURGUIBA'S DELEGATION FOR THE TALK INCLUDED PRI MIN NOUIRA, FON MIN CHATTI, PRESIDENTIAL CABINET DIRECTOR KLIBI, PARTY DIRECTOR SAYAH, INTERIOR MINISTER TAHAR BELKHOJA, FINANCE MINISTER FITOURI, SECY OF STATE FOR INFORMATION MUSTAPHA MASMOUDI AND FOREIGN MINISTRY SECY OF STATE MONGI KOOLI, AS WELL AU TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR TO TRIPOLI.

5. BOURGUIBA'S "PROPHET'S BIRTHDAY" SPEECH AT KAIROUAN MOSQUE IN QADHAFI'S PRESENCE INCLUDED WORDS OF WELCOME TO LIBYAN LEADER AS "THE SYMBOL OF THE BONDS OF BROTHERHOOD WHICH UNITE OUR TWO PEOPLES, AND THE ILLUSTRATION OF THE FACT THAT BETWEEN LIBYA AND TUNISIA THERE EXIST SIMILARITIES OF POSITION AND COMPLEMENTARITIES OF INTERESTS SUCH AS GUARANTEE GOOD NEIGHBORLINESS AND WHICH CALL FOR REINFORCEMENT OF THE FOUNDATIONS OF ACTIVE SOLIDARITY AND COOPERATION." BOURGUIBA THEN ALLUDED TO CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS BEING CONSIDERED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, AS IF HE WERE ON POINT OF MENTIONING THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO PERMIT NATIONAL REFERENDUMS (GOT HAS INSISTED A REFERENDUM MUST BE HELD BEFORE THE JERBA UNION CAN BE IMPLEMENTED.) WITHOUT SPECIFYING THIS, HOWEVER, BOURGUIBA WENT ON TO A PROTRACTED EXPLANATION OF HIS PRESIDENCY AS DERIVING FROM THE AUTHORITY ACCORDED BY LAW TO THE TRADITIONAL SPIRITUAL MUSLIM LEADER, THE IMAM. HE DID SAY THAT ISLAM REQUIRES THE IMAM--AND THEREFORE THE PRESIDENT--TO CONSULT THE PUBLIC ON POLICY, AND SOME TUNIS OBSERVERS ARE TAKING THIS AS A VEILED REFERENCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 TUNIS 01713 261630Z

TO THE SAME MATTER OF REFERENDUM.

4. COMMENT: ON SURFACE, AT LEAST, VISIT WAS FRIENDLY AND IT EVIDENTLY PRODUCED NO CHANGE IN CONTINUED STANDOFFISH RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. ABSENCE OF PUBLIC MENTION BY QADHAFI OF JERBA UNITY SCHEME MUST BE A RELIEF FOR GOT. THE POWER-PACKED TUNISIAN DELEGATION PROBABLY REPRESENTED GOT'S EFFORT TO STAVE OFF ANY FURTHER

UNFORTUNATE CONCESSION THE PRESIDENT ALONE MIGHT HAVE
MADE TO QADHAFI. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT BOURGUIBA'S HINT
OF CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM TO PERMIT REFERENDUM, AND HIS EMPHASIS
ON PRESIDENTJ'S DUTY TO CONSULT HIS PEOPLE, WERE INTENDED
TO ASSURE TUNISIANS, WITHOUT DIRECTLY
SAYING AS MUCH TO QADHAFI, THAT LATTER'S VISIT WOULD NOT
MOVE GOT OFF ITS ANTI-UNION POSITION.
SEELYE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TUNIS01713
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750106-0481
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750312/aaaaakim.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 TUNIS 1641, 75 1595
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <27 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: QADHAFI VISITS BOURGUIBA
TAGS: PFOR, TS, LY, (QADHAFI, MU'AMMAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006